

[President]

which applies to the Government of His Highness. The honourable member knows well how to speak subject to that restriction. I did not expect any other statement from Mr. Kuruvilla. It is however due to him to assert that the statement that was made by the Government and on behalf of the Government with regard to the members of the State Congress still Subsists.

Mr. N. V. Chacko : Sir, on a point of information—

President : Is it a point of order?

Mr. N. V. Chacko : It is a point for information. If on a day for the general discussion of the budget, time is granted for discussing an adjournment motion, will such time be granted on another day for the general discussion of the budget? I do not know what the precedent is.

President : There is no adjournment motion coming on and so the question does not arise. The adjournment motion has been overruled.

Mr. N. V. Chacko : Probably, I did not make myself clear. Yesterday the adjournment motion was withdrawn because it was made to understand that no other time will be granted for the general discussion of the budget.

President : It is the law. Rule 74 (2) lays down :—

“On a day to be appointed by the Dewan subsequent to the day on which the budget is presented and for such time as the Dewan may allot for this purpose the Council shall be at liberty to discuss the budget as a whole or any question of principle involved therein, but no motion shall be moved at this stage, nor shall any member be entitled to divide the Council in respect of any such discussion on the budget.”

If that day is spent for other purposes, then no further time will be allowed for general discussion. Similarly in the case of other days also not more than four days shall be allowed for the voting of demands. That is the law. It is not a question of precedents.

The House will now begin the discussion on the demands for grants.

VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

DEMAND I—LAND REVENUE & TAXES ON INCOME.

Mr. K. George : Sir, I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 10,54,613 under Demand I—Land Revenue and Taxes on Income.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar (Nominated) : I rise to oppose the motion. The action of the Government in granting concession in Tax is really praiseworthy and the people are very thankful to the Government for the same. But it is a pity that

some restrictions have been placed in its application. The remission of tax applies only to the arrears at the end of the year. It is a well-known fact as may be judged from the Government Gazette of the months of Mithunam and Karkadakom of this year that the revenue authorities have taken greater pains to see that there are no arrears at the end of the year.

I am inclined to think that more than 95 per cent. of the tax has now been realised. I know as a matter of fact that in many cases the amounts have been realised by actual sales of land. It will only be just that the Government extend the concessions to all pattadars. In regard to those who have already paid the tax credit may be given of the excess amount paid towards their dues for the year 1114.

In regard to Kandukrishi taxation I would appeal to Government to grant them some concession and extension of time for payment.

President : The honourable member will remember that according to my ruling only 10 minutes are allotted for each member.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar : Another point I may submit for the consideration of Government is about the Government order regarding the taxation on Kandukrishi paddy lands that have been converted into garden lands. This has been the subject of very great grievance to a good number of Kandukrishi tenants.

Kuttanad is a water-logged area and with the increase in population the necessity for more dwelling houses arises. It is mostly for this purpose that the paddy lands which are Kandukrishi holdings are being converted into garden lands. This conversion is being done at enormous cost and costly houses are put up thereon. It is on the firm belief and conviction that so long as they pay the *pattom* they will not be disturbed from possession that they ventured to spend such huge amounts on the lands. This conversion has only improved the land. Any additional income that the ryot may get from the cocoanut trees planted in the converted area will be insignificant when compared with the expenditure incurred for conversion. If the Government are not kind enough to cancel the order above referred to, I fear many of the tenants will be rendered homeless. I request the Government will consider this question in all its seriousness.

Coming to income tax, I have to make a few observations. For income tax purposes, the commutation rate for income in the shape of paddy for 1113 has been fixed as 14 chs. per *para*. This is clearly 2 chs. above the rate fixed by Government for Kandukrishi taxation purposes. I would request that the rate should be on a par with that fixed for Kandukrishi purposes in so far as the Ambalapuzha, Changanachery and Kottayam taluks are concerned.

[Mr. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar.]

Sir, before I conclude I wish to make a few remarks on markets. It seems the Government are pursuing the policy of not allowing the opening of private markets as far as possible. The opening of markets in rural areas are conducive to the material prosperity of such areas. I think that it is necessary that Government should give every inducement for the opening of private markets, wherever Government could not open public markets. As a general case it will be well that the experimental stage of the conduct of the market is in the hands of private persons.

Kuttanad proper comprises the water-bound area coming within the jurisdiction of Ambalapuzha, Changanachery and Kottayam taluks. The condition of the people living in the Kuttanad portion of the above taluks and their requirements are quite different from those of the people in other parts. The people of Kuttanad have been praying to Government for Kuttanad being formed into a separate taluk. I impress upon the Government this aspect of the matter so that they might consider it in all seriousness.

There is already a complaint that public expenditure is increasing year by year. It is the duty of the Government to see that such expenditure is brought down. Yesterday, when dealing with the general discussion of the budget, the honourable member, Mr. Ismail, suggested that the post of the Devicolum Commissioner may very well be abolished and that the two taluks of Devicolum and Peermade may be joined with the Kottayam Division. I join hands with Mr. Ismail in saying that the place of the Devicolum Commissioner may be abolished. If the Government think that the Devicolum Commissioner is an absolute necessity, I would suggest that he may be entrusted with the work of the Game Warden. Then there may not be necessity of a separate officer as game warden and Government may make a saving.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : Sir, I also oppose the demand. In doing so, I agree with the previous speaker in saying that the G. O. granting remission of tax for the current year should be more liberally construed and applied. Many people have paid tax for the current year suffering considerable difficulty and hardships only because of their loyalty to the Government. That those who paid the tax in time even at great risk should be deprived of the benefit of the concession is very hard. To do so would be setting up a premium for non payment in future. I therefore request that Government may consider this matter in all seriousness and extend the benefit of the concession to those who have already paid tax.

With regard to income tax, as was represented by my friend, it is very unjust that the Government are directing the Jemmies to accept jenmikaram at the commutation rate of 10 chs. per *para* when the Government are valuing paddy at 12 to 14 chs. for income-tax purposes. Sir, this is unfair. The price of paddy fixed for income-tax purposes is very high and disproportionate to the local current price.

Coming to the question of markets, I may say, that I cannot agree with my learned friend in his statement that the private markets must be encouraged. I would object to that proposal and would request the Government to convert all private markets into public markets. Private markets are a source of much trouble to the public who have to go there. Private markets are also a source of much loss to Government. To illustrate one concrete instance, Sir, there was a private cattle market in Perumbavur till recently. The licensee was till an year ago paying only a nominal amount as license fees. This market was converted into a public market last year and the amount realised in auction last year was Rs. 600. This year the amount realised is Rs. 1,000. This being the case it is not at all advisable to give the right of conducting the markets to private licensees. If these markets are in the hands of private licensees the poor agriculturists who resort to them will be put to much difficulties. At present there are very few proper stalls in the public markets even though income under markets now amount to nearly a lakh of rupees. The poor agriculturists who go to the market with their articles have now to wait in the market compound exposed to sun and rain to the detriment of their health and the quality of the goods they bring. I would particularly request the Land Revenue Commissioner to have suitable stalls built in all the public markets as early as is possible. It is all the more necessary as exposure is liable to the spread of contagious diseases.

Now there is a tendency on the part of the public not to go in for revenue sales because of the heavy loss and difficulties involved in the same. Under the rules in force such purchasers have to be informed by notice to produce stamp papers for sanads. That procedure is seldom observed in some courts. There is no register kept in Taluk offices to enter receipt of stamp papers produced for preparing sanads. Purchasers have to depend upon the good will and honesty of the Taluks clerks to get their sanads. Very often parties have to produce valuable stamp papers on 2 or 3 occasions because when pressed for sanads they are told that there are no stamp papers found. This leads to a good deal of foul play. Such registers are preserved in Munsiff's courts which courts also issue

[Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar.]

sanads. I have heard of Taluk offices where more than 300 applications for sanads are pending long, the parties saying that they have produced stamp papers and the clerks replying that such papers are not to be found. This practice of not keeping a register for receiving stamp papers for sanads has become a source of much loss and complaint to the public at large, so much so that there is a real tendency on the part of the public not to go in for purchase of properties at revenue sales. I had sent an interpellation on this matter. I am sorry to say that it has not been admitted.

President : Does the honourable member say that his interpellation was not tabled ?

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : I am glad to say Sir, that it has been admitted but not tabled. In this connection I would bring to the notice of Government another reason why people do not freely go in for purchase in revenue sales. It is this *viz.*, that after a sale is over the formality of signing the sanad is entrusted with the Peishkar though the sanad is prepared by the Tahsildar. This causes great delay. The delay can be avoided if the Tahsildar is given that power of signing sanad. We see that the status of the Tahsildar is equivalent to that of the Munsiff. When the Munsiff is competent to sign the sanad why should there be any difference in the case of a Tahsildar. The Tahsildars are now sending the copy of the sanad to the Division Peishkar for signature and the same is kept there indefinitely causing a lot of delay. So much so, the public have become disgusted with revenue sales. Now they are under the impression that to buy properties in revenue sales is not at all advisable. I trust that the Land Revenue Commissioner will consider these difficulties seriously and find out some remedy as early as is possible.

Then I want to draw the attention of the Land Revenue Commissioner to the serious complaints of the Arayans residing in the *Kadal theerom* at Munambam. These poor people live entirely by fishing. A certain poramboke land in Vadakkekara pakuthi, Munambam kara, was being used by Arayans for fishing purposes from olden days. They had applied for registry of that place in their name. The Land Revenue Commissioner, the Tahsildar, and the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, all recommended for the registry of the plot in the name of the Arayans. These men belong to the backward communities and they are very poor also. Notwithstanding those recommendations, the Government ordered that the trespassers ought to be vacated and the land left free. This order was passed on the 26th of December 1936. Nothing

was done soon after that. It took nearly one year for the Páur taluk officers to see to the evacuation. With the help of Reserve Police it was finally done. After the evacuation now again the land is trespassed upon by the old trespassers. The Government in their order stated above say that nobody should occupy the land and that it should be left free for the Arayans. But nothing has been done till now to evacuate the trespassers. I request the Land Revenue Commissioner to look into this as early as possible and help the poor Arayans.

Sir, again, in the matter of getting copies from the taluk offices serious difficulties are being experienced by the public.

President: The honourable member has three minutes more.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: Sir, there are certain taluks where the púduval work is very heavy. But in the distribution of staff this additional work is not taken into consideration. Now there is a uniform distribution of staff in all the taluk offices without reference to the work. I would suggest that where there is very heavy work a re-distribution has to be done or else there will be much delay in the disposal of these púduval matters.

Another point that I wish to emphasise in this connection is that there is not sufficient accommodation in the Perumpavur Taluk Treasury office for those who go there to remit money into the treasury. They have to wait for hours in the open air exposed to sun and rain. On an average there will be about 100 to 200 people going to the Treasury daily to make remittances. I would urge the matter of providing sufficient accommodation for these people in the Treasury building for the serious consideration of the Government.

It is also necessary to appoint a Nottakaran in this Treasury because of the heavy work.

With these few words I oppose the demand.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: Sir, every year the Government kindly sanction certain amounts to be given to the agriculturists exclusively. In the year 1112, Rs. 1,50,000 was sanctioned. The Land Revenue Commissioner did not utilise the whole amount. In the course of his report he also says that there are about Rs. 5,24,000 in arrears. The Government sanction the loans for the benefit of the ryots and the departmental heads, out of fear, are very reluctant to issue loans to any people. So the arrears are accumulating. This problem arises not only in this department, but also in most

[Mr. K. K. Kuruvila.]

departments of the State. It is a wonder to me why these departmental officers who ought to be in close touch with the ryots have not discovered any means by which this situation could be remedied. My long experience with co-operative societies makes me feel that one of the causes of arrears is that in most cases loans are not utilised for the purpose for which they are sanctioned. Now, there must be some organisation which will look into the matter and see that these loans are properly utilised. From our long experience we find that the machinery of the Government is not succeeding in this attempt. It is a clear fact that the machinery of the Government has failed. Rs. 5 lakhs and odd are in arrears. I therefore bring to your notice and to the attention of the House that if there is a Pakuthi or Village organisation which is responsible to see that these loans are properly used, then we have a chance that the loans will be supplied for the purpose for which they are asked. I do not see any other way by which this can be done. In a report which I have seen in another Indian State I find that they have an organisation of the kind which I have just now described. They describe the function of these societies as follows :

"The administrative duties and responsibilities of the Panchayats as contemplated in the Panchayat Regulation which underwent no change during the year under report and they are detailed below :—

- (a) The construction, repair and maintenance of minor irrigation works denominated chiras, kappus, canals, thodus, etc., and the regulation and distribution of water supply to the lands commanded by such works.
- (b) Constructing and repairing tanks and wells and such other works as will supply the inhabitants of the area over which the Panchayat has jurisdiction with a wholesome supply of water for drinking, bathing and other purposes.
- (c) Reservation in tact of all poramboke paths, lanes and canals useful for purposes of communication, cattle grazing, irrigation, etc., purposes.
- (d) Control over vaccination and registration of vital statistics.
- (e) Construction and repair of village roads and maintenance of road-side avenues.
- (f) Maintenance of Sirkar water pandals.
- (g) Attending to all matters relating to the improvement of village sanitation such as prevention of epidemic diseases, cleaning of roads, drains, etc., and generally doing such things as may be necessary for the preservation of the health of the public.
- (h) Formation of Co-operative Societies under Regulation IV of 1938.
- (i) Supervision over elementary education.
- (j) Improvement of agriculture and agricultural cattle and prevention of cattle mortality.
- (k) Maintenance in tact and repair and renewals of survey and boundary marks."

Now all these functions of the village shall be undertaken by the kind of organisation I have described.

Turning to the another side of the report, I shall emphasise the same fact about Kandukrishi lands of which something has already been said. In one part of the Kandukrishi area, the price of paddy is fixed at 12 chuckrams, and in another the price is fixed at 13½ chuckrams for purposes of taxation. Now the Land Revenue Commissioner who has a long experience and who is fairly well in touch with the needs of the ryots, even he was misled by the reports of his subordinates and it must be due to that misrepresentation that he has fixed different rates for these two places. Such a thing would not have happened if you had some organisation which would immediately inform the Land Revenue Commissioner about these facts. I also want to say a few words about the great hardship which the poor people in these places suffer owing to the procedure that was adopted in regard to the levying of prohibitory assessment. It seems to very strange that such an order has been passed. For one perimeter of land the tax is about, on the average two *paras* and the general income therefrom is about ten *paras*. But the prohibitive assessment is ten *paras*, that is, five times the amount of the tax. The man who has to cultivate the land under this state of affairs could not live. In addition, he has to pay back arrears also.

Mr. P. I. Simon (*Municipal Councils*): Is it not for the conversion of land?

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: The land has been converted but not degenerated. If he has converted the land, it is because the poor man has no place to live. If he applies for sanction it will be delayed to such an extent that he would not be able to get it in his life time. With back arrears and prohibitory assessment I cannot understand how he can live his life. I know that even in this Council Hall there are persons who know the real situation. I find the Financial Secretary and the Excise Commissioner who are in touch with the situation and one of the Division Peishkars, Mr. Chandy, and the Irrigation Officer must also be aware of this. None of them have touched this problem at all. I have often wondered why a new situation produces a new psychological change in the minds of men. Officialdom creates a particular psychological outlook which has not been always helpful to the rural population of this country. I submit this as the real reason. Therefore, I want the village people to be associated with the Government Officers for the purpose of looking into this question.

Sir, a word more about the markets.

President: You have three minutes more.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla : The income derived from the markets is Rs. 95,745, while the expenditure for the markets including sanitary arrangements is Rs. 8,000. You must remember that this amount of Rs. 95,000 is made by charging a 2 pie tax on the poor persons who bring a head load to the market. If a man takes a fowl in hand and sells this for six chuckrams, he has to pay out of this a few cash. In this way the Government are able to make an income of a few lakhs. I call this blood money. And the pity of this is that out of this, only Rs. 8,000 is spent on the improvement of the market. In fact, I know a particular market, I mean the Kozhenchery Market, where we have only one sweeper to do the work over a fairly extensive area. I ask the Land Revenue Commissioner why so little money has been spent for the improvement of the market when he gets Rs. 95,000 by way of income.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : Sir, I rise to oppose the Demand. In doing so, I would like to invite the attention of the House to the hollowness of the Government Communique remitting a portion of the land-tax. There used to be a convention—I do not know whether it is in existence now—of a message from the Huzur Office being sent to the Central Prison soon after every execution to the effect that the execution should be stopped. In the same manner, after attaching all movable properties and auctioning most of the immovable properties, here comes an announcement of some kind of relief. Sir, it has come too late. Also, it is putting a premium upon default in the matter of payment of tax. It helps only those who are favoured by the Proverthicars and Tahsildars, those who have been allowed to delay the payment of tax. I am certainly in agreement with the observations of my friends Messrs. Ananthasiva Aiyar and Kuruvilla regarding the condition of the Kandukrishni tenants. In many cases Sir, it is not a waste, but only an improvement. What in English Law, may be called ameliorative waste has been penalised here. After all the tenants of Kuttanad also want something like a *terra firma* to live on ; and that has been penalised. Their condition is certainly very pitiable. Even without the activities of any subversive body, these tenants will become very desperate, and the Government would only be inviting agrarian trouble if they do not do something to minimise their grievances.

I oppose the Demand also because the Division Peishkars—some of them at any rate—engage themselves now-a-days in political activities. I know one of them who went about canvassing votes during the recent bye election.

Mr. R. V. Thomas : May I know who that officer was ?

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Everybody knows it, the Quilon Division Peishkar. He is not very good canvassing either. (*Laughter.*) During the recent Mavelikara bye-election, he went about canvassing votes.

President: Does the honourable member make himself responsible for that statement?

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: I make myself responsible for every statement that I make here.

President: That was not the question. The question is whether the honourable member makes himself responsible for the statement that the Quilon Peishkar went about canvassing votes during the recent bye-election at Mavelikara.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: I make myself responsible fully and unequivocally that Mr. Chandy, the Division Peishkar and District Magistrate, Quilon, [went about, during the recent Mavelikara bye-election, canvassing votes, for one Mr. Narayana Pillai, and against Mr. Sankara Pillai, who had been set up by the State Congress as the candidate for the Mavelikara-Kunnattur constituency. That shows that Government Officers themselves are breaking their own Rules. Sir, this is very dangerous. A situation may come when this relaxation of discipline will be very inconvenient to the Government themselves.

I oppose the Demand also because the revenue authorities have not done anything to relieve the sufferings of the people in Karunagapalli whose lands have been washed away by the sea. Sir, by the time we give them amenities, by the time they can listen to a programme from Paris or to a musical programme from our own broadcasting station, these poor people will have been washed away by the sea. This shows the indifference, almost criminal in its nature, of the revenue authorities in not making the necessary proposal to the Government, and of the Government in not making any provision to relieve the grievances of these people on the sea-side.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: Sir, I regret I have to oppose the Demand, and begin to do it by repeating my old complaints. The Land Revenue Commissioner himself knows the extent to which the collection of market tolls has now gone up. My friend Mr. Kuruvilla has pointed out that a sum of Rs. 95,714 has been realised by way of market tolls in the year 1112. Sir, complaints have been made and resolutions have been passed times without number on this question. I know the Land Revenue Commissioner is absolutely helpless in this matter unless the Government make it a point not to care for

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this pittance of less than a lakh of rupees which is being realised by harrassing and squeezing the people. If we refer to the Administration Reports of the Land Revenue Department for the last four or five years, we will find that the Tahsildars have been very alert in seeing that somehow or other the markets are bid for increased amounts year after year. Even after the auction, if a rival to the highest bidder puts in a petition offering a higher amount, the auction sale is set aside and the new comer is given the contract. While the income under this head was only Rs. 85,525 in 1111, in 1112, it was Rs. 95,714. There is also another peculiar feature. Of the four Revenue Divisions, the Trivandrum and Kottayam Divisions come 1st and 2nd respectively in the matter of income under market dues. There are 44 markets in the Trivandrum Division and 74 in the Kottayam Division. Still the Government are able to collect Rs. 42,000 from the Trivandrum Division while they get only Rs. 14,000 from the 74 markets of the Kottayam Division. That shows that there is reckless bidding in the Trivandrum Division. I would therefore request the revenue authorities not to confirm any contract of a market lease without ascertaining whether the contract amount is reasonable and can be realised by the lessee if he collects at the rates allowed by the rules. It is clear from the contract amount that, unless the lessee extracts money by illegally harrassing the people, he cannot pay the Government dues fully. Recently under the instance of the lessee of the Kattakada market some rowdies assaulted 5 or 6 persons. I myself have represented the matter to the Land Revenue Commissioner. It happened under the very nose of the policemen. The Public of Kattakada came here and invited the attention of the D. S. P.; and it was under his supervision that the collections were then made. The position is the same in Nedumangad also. In all these places the contractors bid very highly and recklessly harrass the poor people who go to the market, and extract money out of them. Amounts much more than the scheduled rates are levied from these poor people. If the Government really care for the interest of the public they should somehow do away with this item of revenue and redress this longstanding grievance of the tax-payer. I would request you, Sir, that at least now this scandal of market tolls should be put an end to. Sir, yesterday I adverted to the expenditure of Rs. 1 lakh under the head 'Political and Miscellaneous,' for which no explanation was given. Under this item the amount is even less than one lakh; and I ask why not this toll amount be made up in some other item. The tendency of the Government in recent years has been to encourage public markets and to discourage private

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markets. I have nothing to say about that. But I would suggest that the Police should co-operate with the people whenever they get complaints against an arbitrary levy being made by the market contractors. When I made a similar representation last year on the floor of this House, the Land Revenue Commissioner was pleased to go to Kattakada. But, Sir these contractors behave like very good boys in the presence of the Land Revenue Commissioner or even the Tahsildar. They will not collect a cash more than what is legitimately due when the Tahsildar is present at the spot. That is not the way things have to be ascertained. The situation is really very serious. Several petitions have been sent up. Last year a protest meeting was held and the resolutions passed there were sent up to the Government. Although the Government are tom-tomming that our finances are sound, they are not prepared to redress this grievance of the poor agriculturists in spite of repeated representations and complaints made in this House. Why not, I ask, the Government show that their finances are really sound by granting this boon to the poor people? After all it will not cost the Government even one lakh of rupees. In spite of all our representations Government are not prepared to raise even their little finger in this matter. I request, Sir, that my observations may be taken in the spirit in which they are made. I know several instances in which innocent people have been harrassed by market contractors. Every time a load is taken to a market, the best articles are appropriated by the contractor and his rowdy comrade for their own use, and they also extract in cash much more than what is really due to them. The policemen on duty there invariably sides with the contractor and do not come to the rescue of the poor people who go to these markets. I trust, Sir, that I will not be put to the painful necessity of repeating these sad stories any more. I hope the Government will grant this boon to the poor agriculturists of the country.

In regard to coercive steps, Sir, I would request the Land Revenue Commissioner to see that some more consideration is shown to the poor tax-payer. I pointed out to the House last year that the land revenue authorities were able to collect 85 per cent. of the arrears of land revenue. It is quite good that arrears have been collected to that extent. I would only suggest that immovable property should not be sold in cases where the attachment of the crops would enable the Government to get their dues in full.

Further, Sir, notice of auction sales of properties should be served, and the written acknowledgement of the parties obtained, at least one month before the date of auction, so that they can arrange for money and pay off the dues, and save their property. I know of many instances where for Rs. 3, properties worth Rs. 300 have been sold in auction.

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I would also suggest to the Government to lay down a specific provision to verify that agricultural loans are actually utilised for the purpose for which they are granted. That is a matter which requires scrutiny.

I would also request that whenever there is drought remission should be granted as far as possible.

One other suggestion that I would like to make is that the agricultural loans should be transferred to the Credit Bank if possible.

I will conclude by repeating my request about the market tolls so that I may not have to repeat it next year.

Mr. M. S. Anirudhan (*Karunagapally, Kartikapally and Ambalapuzha cum Shertalla*): I would like to offer a few remarks on this demand. Last year, while debating on this demand, there had been several speeches from the representatives of the under-represented communities about the inadequate representation of those communities in the Land Revenue Department, especially among the Accountants and Proverthicars; and the Land Revenue Commissioner had been good enough to assure this House that something may be done so that the representatives of the under-represented communities may get adequate representation. I am not aware, Sir, whether anything has been done by the Government in this direction. In other sections of the department also the representation of these communities is far from satisfactory. We have been clamouring for adequate representation for the last so many years and it is a pity, Sir, that the attention of Government has not been seriously drawn to this question. When I begin to speak on communal representation Sir, it may appear to be jarring to some of my friends but it is a necessity from which I cannot escape and those people to whom this may be jarring belong to communities which are over-represented in the services.

The next point on which I would like to offer some remarks is the sad plight of the land-owning classes, especially the small land-owning classes. A look at the figures of the demand notices issued in 1110, 1111 and 1112 would give a sufficient indication of the financial degradation of the land-owning classes. The number of demand notices issued in 1110 was 7,90,000, in 1111 it was 8,54,639 and in 1112 it was 8,86,607. Movables were sold in 1111 in 1785 cases for an amount of Rs. 15,000 odd and immovable property was sold in 19,106 cases for an amount of Rs. 2,33,594. Coming to 1112, in 1651 cases movables were sold for realising an amount of Rs. 1,16,000 and in 23,163 cases immovable property had to be sold to realize an amount of Rs. 3,66,799. Coming to 1113 the pages of the Government Gazette for the last few months will convince one of the sad plight of the land-owning classes.

These facts unmistakably indicate the downward trend of the financial stability of the land-owning classes. The volume of agricultural output is diminishing year by year and the price of agricultural produce is on a downward trend. The price of the cocoanut has gone down to Rs. 15 per 1000. These facts would clearly indicate the sad plight of the land-owning classes and I appeal to the Government to see that something substantial is done to relieve them from their difficulties by reducing the taxes, granting loans and giving them other reliefs.

Another question on which I would like to speak a few words is the policy of Government in granting loans to the landless classes. The Administration Report says that there were 1,625 applications for lands in 1112 of which only 726 were disposed of. This is a very sad circumstance. I am told that an application put in by a large section of the Kurava community for some lands in Kulakkada pakuthi has been rejected without assigning sufficient reason. I think Government ought to be more alert in these matters.

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai: Sir, honourable friend Mr. Ananthasiva Aiyar just now said that, if a re-settlement is affected, the Government will be losing a large revenue. I am quite against that statement. I assure you, Sir, that by a re-settlement the Government will stand to gain a great deal. In the absence of a re-settlement the Government are now losing a large amount of money. They are losing lakhs and lakhs of rupees. Sir, as I said yesterday, settlement operations were going on from 1053 to 1081. Since the last settlement, several new plantations have sprung up and several encroachments have taken place. A survey conducted in the cardamom areas has revealed a lot of encroachments. Similarly in the areas cultivated with rubber, tea and coffee, if only a re-survey is undertaken, it will be found that a large amount of revenue will be available to Government.

Sir, without dilating too much upon this question of re-settlement, I may draw the attention of Government to the urgent necessity for effecting a reform in land revenue. The glaring defect in the existing system is, as I have said so often, the inequality and the unequal and most inequitable distribution of tax burdens. At the risk of taxing the patience of the Government and at the risk of taxing the patience of my honourable friends, I may state that taxation in Nanjinad is most excessive and onerous. Referring to this inequality the Honourable Rama Aiyangar said that the present inequality of assessment is another evil of great magnitude. Generally to the north of Trivandrum it is slight and moderate, but in the south of Trivandrum, especially in Tovala and Agastisvaram, the tax is excessive and onerous. It is against this inequitable distribution of tax burdens and this differential treatment that the

[Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai.]

Nanjinad ryots have been making representations year after year and the convenient answers has been that the whole thing will be looked into at the time of the re-settlement.

Now, Sir, within the short time at my disposal I would like to refer to two main grievances of the Nanjinad ryots. The first is with regard to the excessive taxation. How was it brought about? If you take a double-crop wet land bearing the first *tharam*, the tax is nine *kottas*, nine *marakals* and four *padies* and the cash equivalent is Rs. 25 ch. 18 c. 7. Sir, how was this arrived at? In the first place I may submit that it was Dewan Shungarasubier who fixed this rate on the basis of a lease of 18 *kottas* per acre. Six-tenths were taken as the *rajahogam* or the Government share and excluding one-tenth for the unprofitable areas, the tax is nine *kottas*, nine *marakals* and four *padies*. Sir, I may submit that no landlord ever gets his 18 *kottas* per acre in Nanjinad or anywhere near it. I submit that this is most unjust. Even at that time no landlord could get 18 *kottas* from one acre of paddy land.

Secondly, I may submit, Sir, that as a matter of fact no settlement took place in Nanjinad, because the Settlement Officers in fixing the tax on the basis of 18 *kottas* per acre simply looked to the *munkaram*. That was because the people of Nanjinad unlike the people of other parts of the State are a very convenient set of people to deal with. Because they were not at all vociferous, the officers found it convenient to levy any kind of tax on these people and without doing any work whatever, they simply settled according to *munkaram*. That is why I bring it to the notice of Government that so far as Nanjinad is concerned, settlement is an urgent necessity.

Another grievance of the Nanjinad ryots is with regard to the conversion rates. This matter also has been agitated for a very long time and several representations have been made. In regard to these also the convenient answer has been that the whole thing will be looked into at the time of the re settlement. Sir, I will just deal with this question very briefly. The main grievance is that instead of treating one *kotta* as being equivalent to seven *paras*, Government have fixed one *kotta* as being equivalent to nine *paras* and $3\frac{5}{5}$ *idamgalis* for the first half and 8 *paras* and $6\frac{1}{2}$ *idamgalis* for the second half, and on the basis of this adjustment they have been realising one-fifth of the tax in excess of what is legitimately and legally due from the ryots. It is on the basis of this calculation, namely that for the first half one *kotta* equals 9 *paras* $3\frac{5}{5}$ *idamgalis* at 6 chs. per *para* and for the second half one *kotta* equals 8 *paras* $6\frac{1}{2}$ *idamgalis* at 11 chs. per *para*, that this amount of Rs. 25 odd

has been worked out. It would have been different if they had followed in their calculations the Settlement Proclamation which stated that one *kotta* equals one acre. They ought to have followed the Settlement Proclamation and it is a gross mistake that they have not done so. Besides, they arbitrarily and without any authority whatever fixed the rate that obtains now. If the Settlement Proclamation had only been followed by them the amount will only come to Rs. 20 odd. This can very easily be worked out. Uniformly for one *kotta*, as I said, the tax is 9 *kottas*, 9 *marakals* and 4 *padies*. If this is converted into *paras*, it will come to 66 *paras* and calculating for 33 *paras* at 6 chs for the first half and for 33 *paras* at 11 chs. for the second half, we will get an amount of Rs. 20. So, the excess of Rs. 5 per *kotta* the Nanjinad ryots have been paying for the last so many years and this means a serious drain on the resources of those ryots.

The amount can easily be calculated and I do not know for how long they should suffer that injustice. I do not know for what long a period this difference on account of the conversion rate at an unjust basis is to exist. If justly assessed in accordance with the just principles on the most proper lease basis namely $10\frac{1}{2}$ *kottas* per *kotta* of paddy land and if the mistakes pointed out in the conversion rules were not committed, the tax per *kotta* would work out only to Rupees $13\frac{3}{4}$. The above is the legitimate tax which one *kotta* of wet land ought to bear.

In this connection, I will be failing in my duty if I do not convey the gratitude of the millions of Nanjinad ryots to the present Dewan of Travancore for the grant of remission allowed to them. Our representations have all along been a cry in the wilderness. That was the case even with *tharisu*, that is in regard to lands that were fallow. We have not been getting any remission. But it is a matter for gratification that the peculiar hardships of the ryots of Nanjinad were engaging the attention of Government and on behalf of the ryots I convey their sincere and heartfelt thanks.

There has been a continuous drought from 1110. Owing to the failure of the Kodayar reservoir the lands could not be cultivated. Even this year Ayacut lands have been left fallow in Agastisvaram and other neighbouring pakuthies. Of course, we are thankful to the Government for the complete remission for *karivu* and for lands which were left fallow. Considering the amount of hardship experienced by the ryots, and the excess tax paid by them the remission recently granted will not satisfy the people of Nanjinad. In the matter of remission, they are entitled to be treated separately different from the ryots in other parts of the State.

(At this stage the President vacated the chair and Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai, one of the panel of chairmen, presided.)

Mr. Kalloor Narayana Pillai (*Mavelikara and Tiruvella eum Pattanamittir*): ഈ ഡിമാൻറിനെ ഞാൻ എതിർക്കുന്നു. ലാൻഡ് റവന്യൂ കമ്മീഷണരുടെ പ്രത്യേക ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ ഏതാനും സംഗതികൾ കൊണ്ടുവരണമെന്നുദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ ഓരോ താലൂക്കിലും ഓരോ തഹശീൽദാർ ഓരോ റവന്യൂ സൂപ്പർവൈസറുമാരും നിയമിക്കപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടല്ലോ. ഓരോ സൂപ്പർവൈസറുടെ കീഴിൽ ഈ രണ്ടു അക്കൗണ്ടന്മാരെയും നിർമ്മിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. പുറംപോക്കുകൾ അളക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടിയാണ് ഇവരെ നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. എന്നാൽ ഈ തഹശീൽദാർമാർക്കോ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ സൂപ്പർവൈസർമാർക്കോ പുറംപോക്കുകളുടെ നിലയെന്താണെന്നു നല്ലപോലെ മനസ്സിലാക്കാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ലെന്നാണ് എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നത്. നവം ഡിമാൻഷൻ റൂളുകൾ ൧൦ രൂപ-ലാണ് ഉണ്ടാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ളത്. അതിൽ നദികളുടേയും വെള്ളം ഷേക്കുന്ന തോട്ടുകളുടേയും അതിർത്തികളെ കാണിക്കുന്ന കല്ലുകൾ വെള്ളം വന്നാൽ ഇടിഞ്ഞുപോകാതിരിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം തീർത്തുനിന്നും ൫-൦ ൧൦-൦ ലിംക്സ് ഉള്ളിലേക്കു മാറ്റി സ്ഥാപിക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്ന് വിവരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. അങ്ങനെ കല്ലുകൾ ഇട്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ സർവ്വേ പ്ലാൻ നോക്കുമ്പോൾ ഇപ്രകാരം യഥാർത്ഥമായ പുറംപോക്കിർത്തിയിൽ നിന്നും മാറിക്കിടക്കുന്ന കല്ലുകളുടെ അതിർത്തികൾ കാണിക്കുന്ന പ്ലാൻ ആയിരിക്കുകാണുക. ഈ പ്ലാനിനെ ആസ്പദമാക്കിയാണ് പുറംപോക്കുകേസുകൾ എടുത്തുവരുന്നത്. വാസ്തവത്തിൽ അതിൽ അധികം ഭാഗവും പുറംപോക്കുകളല്ലായിരിക്കും. സെവ് ഡിമാൻഷൻ റൂളുകൾ റഗുലേഷൻസ ആൻഡ് പ്രോക്ലമേഷനിൽ ചേർത്തു കാണുന്നില്ല. അതിനാൽ തഹശീൽദാർമാരും മറ്റും ഈ റൂളുകൾ ധരിച്ചുനോക്കിയിരിക്കുകയില്ലെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നത്. ഇങ്ങനെ ഇതുവരെ ൫൮൮൨ പുറംപോക്കുകേസുകൾ എടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഒരു കേസ് റവന്യൂ കമ്മീഷണരുടെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതു നന്നായിരിക്കുമെന്ന് ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നു. ഒരായിരം കൊല്ലങ്ങൾക്കു മുൻപു സ്ഥാപിക്കപ്പെട്ടതും ഹിന്ദുക്കൾ ആരാധന നടത്തിവരുന്നതുമായ “വണ്ടിമലം അമ്മൻകോവിൽ” എന്നൊരു ക്ഷേത്രമുണ്ട്. ഈയിടെ ആ സ്ഥലം പുറംപോക്കാണെന്നു പറഞ്ഞു ആ ക്ഷേത്രത്തിൽ പൂജ നടത്തുന്ന ആളിനേയും അവിടെ ആരാധിക്കുന്നവരേയും പ്രതിയാക്കി അവിടത്തെ തഹശീൽദാർ കേസിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തി ശിക്ഷിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നു. നിരോധനക്കരം ഇന്നും ഈടാക്കിവരുന്നുണ്ട്. ആ നിലയിലുള്ള പുറംപോക്കുകൾ പുറംപോക്കുകളായി ഗണിക്കാവുന്നതല്ല. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ജനങ്ങൾ, വിശേഷിച്ചും ഉൾനാടുകളിലുള്ള ജനങ്ങൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറുവക ഒന്നോ, രണ്ടോ ലിംഗസ് സ്ഥലം എടുക്കണമെന്നു വി

ചാരിക്കുന്നവരല്ല. ആവശ്യത്തിന് തക്കവണ്ണം ഭൂമി ഇല്ലാത്തവരായി അധികംപേരെ കാണുകയില്ല. ടെൺസിലെ കഥയല്ല ഞാൻ പറയുന്നത്. ഇതിനും പുറമെ വല്ല വഴിയമ്പലങ്ങളോ കാവുകളോ മറ്റൊരാളുടെ പ്രത്യേകമായ ഉടമസ്ഥതയില്ലാതെ പൊതുവായി കിടക്കുന്നുണ്ടായിരിക്കും. അതും പുറംപോക്കുകളിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്.

റവന്യൂ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിന്റെ അഡ്മിനിസ്ട്രേഷൻ റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ പണം അപഹരണത്തിന് ഇപ്പോൾ ചില കേസുകൾ വിചാരണയിൽ കിടപ്പുള്ളതായി പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. പാവ്യാകാരന്മാരിൽ ചിലർ പല തരത്തിലുള്ള അക്രമങ്ങൾ കാണിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ജനങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും കരം ഈടാക്കുമ്പോൾ എന്തോ ഒരുവക കൈശലവും അവർ എടുക്കാറുണ്ട്. പരമേശ്വരൻ ബി. എന്നോ സി. എന്നോ, എന്താണെന്ന് എനിക്ക് നിശ്ചയിച്ചില്ല, കുറിച്ചാൽ അത് കുടിശിഖവക തുക എന്നർത്ഥമാകും. തന്നാണെന്ന് കരമെന്നുദ്ദേശിച്ചു കൊടുക്കുന്നു. ആ കരം മുതൽവയ്പ്പാതെ അപഹരിക്കുന്നു. പിറേറകൊല്ലം കുഴിഞ്ഞുകൊല്ലത്തെ കരം കുടിശിഖയായി ഈടാക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ കുടിയാനവന്മാർ കൊടുക്കുന്നത് തന്നാണെന്ന് കരാതന്നെയാണ്.

Mr. K. George : അപ്പോൾ ഈ പഴയ കുടിശിഖ എങ്ങനെ വന്നു?

Mr. Kalloor Narayana Pillai : വാസ്തവത്തിൽ കുടിയാനവൻ കുടിശിഖ ഒന്നും വരുത്തിയതല്ല. പരമേശ്വരൻ കുടിശിഖക്കെന്നു കാണിച്ചതാണ് വിഷയം. കുടിയാനവൻ കൊടുക്കുന്ന പരമേശ്വരൻ ഈ അക്ഷരം കുറിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റി സാധാരണ ജനങ്ങൾ ഗൗനിക്കാറില്ല. അതുപോലെ കൃഷി ചെയ്ത്, ചന്തക്കരം മുതലായവയെല്ലാം ഗവണ്മെന്റുവേക്ക് ഈടാക്കുവാൻ അതതു കക്ഷികൾക്ക് കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള ഉടമ്പടിയിൽ നിർദ്ദേശിക്കപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ളതു ചെല്ലാൻപ്രകാരം അവരവർ ട്രഷറിയിൽ ഒടുക്കിക്കൊള്ളണമെന്നാണ്. എന്നാൽ ആ സംഖ്യകൾ കൂടി വാങ്ങിക്കുവാൻ താഹ്ശിൽദാർമാർ പ്രവർത്തിയാരമാരെ നിയോഗിക്കുന്നു. ഇവർ ഒരു രസീതെഴുതി കക്ഷികളുടെ പക്കൽനിന്നും പണം വാങ്ങുന്നു. നടപടികൾ വരുമ്പോൾ കക്ഷികൾ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. പ്രവൃത്തിയാരമാർക്ക് ഈ പണം നേരിട്ടു വാങ്ങേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല. അവർ പണം വാങ്ങുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് കഴുപ്പുള്ള വന്നിട്ടുള്ള പല സന്ദർഭങ്ങളും ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ട്.

Mr. K. George : ഉടമ്പടിപ്രകാരം അവർ കൃത്യമായതു പണം അടക്കാത്തതെന്തുകൊണ്ട്?

Mr. Kalloor Narayana Pillai : ചിലപ്പോൾ സാധിച്ചില്ലെന്നു വരും. താമശിൽഭാരന്മാരുടെ നിയോഗപ്രകാരം പ്രവൃത്തിയാരന്മാർ ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള കക്ഷികളുടെ അടുക്കൽ ചെല്ലുന്നു. അങ്ങനെ ചെല്ലുവാൻ പ്രവൃത്തിയാരന്മാർക്ക് യാതൊരുധികാരവുമില്ല. തന്മൂലം കക്ഷികൾ വെറുതെ ചിലപ്പോൾ കഴുങ്ങേണ്ടിവരുന്നു. ചില പകുതിക്കച്ചേരികൾ മിക്കവാറും അടച്ചുപൂട്ടിയിടേണ്ടതായി വന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. ചില പ്രവൃത്തിയാരന്മാരെ കാണാനില്ല. അവർ എവിടെയാണെന്ന് അറിയുവാനാവാറില്ല. ചില പണക്കുപ്പം മൂലം അവർ ഓടിയൊളിക്കേണ്ടിവന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിനെല്ലാം കാരണം അവരുടെ നിസ്സാരമായ ശമ്പളമാണ്. പകുതിഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ അതാതു പകുതികളിലെ ടിവാൻജിമാർ ആണെന്നാണ് വയ്പ്. അവരുടെ മക്കളെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം ചെയ്യിച്ചിട്ടില്ലാത്ത അതൊരു കറവാണു്. യോഗ്യന്മാരായ ആളുകൾ ആരെങ്കിലും ആ പകുതിയിൽവന്നാൽ അവരെ സൽക്കരിക്കേണ്ട ചുമതലയും ഇവർക്കാണ്. രാജ്യത്തു എന്തെങ്കിലും ഒരു ചലനമുണ്ടായാൽ അതുതന്നെ പ്രവൃത്തിയാരന്മാരിലാണ് ആദ്യമായി ഫലിക്കുക. ഇലക്ഷൻ വന്നാലും ശരി, മുറജപം വന്നാലും ശരി, മറ്റു എന്തു ജോലി വന്നാലും ശരി, ആ വക കാര്യങ്ങളെല്ലാം പ്രവൃത്തിയാരന്മാർക്കു നോക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള കാര്യങ്ങൾ വരുമ്പോൾ സ്ഥിതിഗതികൾക്കും ആവശ്യങ്ങൾക്കും അനുസരണമായി കറെ പണച്ചിലവു ഉണ്ടാകും. സർക്കാർ പണം അവരുടെ അധീനതയിൽ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നു. ആണ്ടുപസാനത്തോടുകൂടി എല്ലാം ശരിപ്പെടുത്തിക്കൊള്ളാമെന്നുള്ള വിചാരത്താൽ ആ പണം എടുത്തു ചിലവാക്കുകയും ചെയ്യും. എന്നാൽ ഒടുവിൽ ഈ കുഴപ്പങ്ങൾ തീർക്കുന്നതിനു സാധിക്കാതെയൊക്കും. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള വിഷമസ്ഥിതികൾ വരുത്താതെ പ്രവൃത്തിയാരന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളം കൂട്ടി അവർക്കു ഒളിച്ചോടിപ്പോകുവാനുള്ള സന്ദർഭങ്ങൾ കൊടുക്കാതെ പകുതിക്കച്ചേരികളിലെ പ്രവൃത്തനകാര്യത്തിൽ ചില ഭേദഗതികൾ വരുത്തണമെന്നുപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു.

ഇൻകംടാക്സിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചും എനിക്ക് ഒരു വാക്ക് പറയേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ ഇൻകംടാക്സ് കൊടുക്കുവാനിടയുള്ള ആളുകൾക്കു സാധാരണയായി രണ്ടു തരത്തിലുള്ള കണക്കുകൾ ഉണ്ട്. ഒന്നു ഇൻകംടാക്സിനുവേണ്ടി ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതും മററൊന്നു സിവിൽ കോടതികളിൽ ഹാജരാക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ടി ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതിനും ആയി

അവർ സൂക്ഷിക്കുന്നു. ഇത് സർവസാധാരണമായി കാണുന്നുണ്ട്. ഗവണ്മെന്റ് ഇതു കണ്ടുപിടിച്ച് ഇപ്രകാരം രണ്ടു കണക്കുകൾ സൂക്ഷിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അവരെ പ്രാസികൂട്ട ചെയ്യുവാൻ വേണ്ട ഏർപ്പാടുകൾ ചെയ്യണമെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നത്.

ഇനി എനിക്കു ചന്തക്കരത്തൊപ്പറ്റി ഒരു വാക്കുകൂടി പറയാനുണ്ട്. അടുത്തകാലത്തു പത്തോ, ഇരുപതോ മുട്ടയുമായി യാതൊരു ഗതിയുമില്ലാത്ത ഒരു സ്ത്രീ മുട്ടവിറകു കാലക്ഷേപം കഴിക്കാമെന്നുള്ള വിചാരത്തിൽ ഒരു ചന്തയിൽ വന്നു. ആ ചന്ത കൺട്രാക്ടറുടെ ജോലിക്കാരനായ ഒരു റെയഡി കരത്തിനുവേണ്ടി അവളുടെ മുട്ടയിൽ കടന്നു പടിക്കുകയും അതെല്ലാം താഴെ വീണു ഉടഞ്ഞുപോകയും ചെയ്തു. ആ സ്ത്രീ കരഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടു തിരികെ പോകുന്നു. നമുക്കെന്തിനാണ് ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള പണം എന്ന് ഗവണ്മെന്റ് ആലോചിക്കണം. പരമാർത്ഥം പറഞ്ഞാൽ ഇൻ ക്ഷാക്സ് കറേക്കൂടി കൂട്ടിയാലും തരക്കൂടില്ല. ഈ ദരിദ്രജനങ്ങളുടെ നിസ്സാരമായ തുകകൾ, രണ്ടുകാലം നാലുകാലം മറ്റും നമുക്കു വേണ്ട എന്നു വയ്ക്കുകയാണ് ഭേദമെന്നു എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നു.

Mr. N. V. Chacko : Sir, it appears that the Land Revenue Commissioner is ignorant of the existence of North Travancore comprising Parur, Kunnatnad, Muvattupuzha and Devicolam taluks except for the purpose of collecting tax. He seems to be under the impression that those parts are the ideal ones. Government are not aware of the destructions caused by the floods occurring twice a year, the drought and too much rainfall. I do not know whether anybody else has experienced the floods of those parts except my honourable friend Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar. Government officials do not visit those parts during flood for fear of being drowned.

In the matter of remission of tax, I do not know why the people of North Travancore do not even get any remission at all. Is it the Government's case that North Travancore is always prosperous and that they never deserve such concessions from the Government? It is true some concession has apparently been made now, but that cannot benefit the people of those parts. It is only good for advertisement. It applies only to the arrears remaining due at the end of the current year. I do not know of the conditions in South Travancore. But the state of affairs in North Travancore is bad indeed. This concession has come at a time when almost everybody has paid taxes owing to sheer dread of Government officers. In North Travancore they are feared even more than plague. During the collection of tax from those parts people might have been deprived of everything which they might

[Mr. N. V. Chacko.]

have possessed. Government say that they have allowed a concession of 50 per cent. of the arrears of tax remaining due at the end of the year. That is really making fun of the people of North Travancore in view of the fact that they will have by this time paid those taxes without leaving arrears. It would be well if statistics is made for the total amount of tax due from each of the taluks separately, the amount of arrears due from each taluk and the amount of remission that might be allowed to each taluk, as a result of the announcement made recently.

Mr. Narayana Aiyar said that justice should be done to the jenmies in the matter of commutation rates. No doubt, justice must be meted out to them. But it should not be done by enhancing the commutation rate of dues from the kudiyaans, but by reducing the commutation rate for the purpose of calculating income tax due to the Government from the jenmies. I think that that is the view point in which the matter has been urged by my honourable friend. The depth and intensity of the poverty of the agriculturists in rural parts are not realised by the Government. However I am glad to notice that the Government have admitted that the agriculturists are in a very bad predicament, but Government say that they will have to remain in that condition for an indefinite period and seem to have resigned them to their inexorable fate. They seem to think that there is no use of trying to help the agriculturists who are given up as doomed for ever. But, if the Government are willing to help the agriculturists, they can relieve them to some extent at least. One way of helping the agriculturists is by the remission of tax. The amount remitted can be made good by reducing the pay of the officials. I hope they will excuse me for saying so. Their pay can be reduced on the model of the Congress Government in Madras. The agriculturists require ever so many relief measures. The Relief measures which we have here are quite inadequate and they should be improved on the lines followed in Madras.

One fact why North Travancore is so much ignored is because there are no officers from that side who would really be interested in those areas. I think this defect can be remedied if regional representation is given effect to. I am not claiming regional representation for my own sake or for my children.

There is a tug of war between the Revenue Department and the P. W. Department. They are trying to see who are in greater authority. As a result of this the roads constructed by the agriculturists are seldom taken by the P. W. Department. This Department complains that the revenue authorities cause great delay

in taking the necessary proceedings and allowing the P. W. D. to take possession of the roads so that they may be improved and maintained. So I would invite the attention of the Land Revenue Department and the Government to see that no such friction occurs in future. We have not the good fortune of having Alwaye or Puthenkurisu as the capital of this State. That does not mean that our cry need not be heard here.

Ever so many members complained about markets. It is well known that the Contractors are taking all sorts of coercive steps to extract money from the poor people, while the Government get only a poor pittance as their share.

Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail: Sir, it was with the full sense of responsibility that I have stated yesterday that the mountain taluks of Devicolum and Peermade can very well be abolished with advantage. My friend Mr. Ananthasiva Aiyar pointed out that at least the office of the Game Warden may be amalgamated with this. If we can understand the work of the Game Warden, I fear it will be an unnecessary waste if it is to continue. My conviction is that this can be abolished and if necessity arises for the preservation of the wild animals that can very well be entrusted to the Forest Department.

I think the Land Revenue Commissioner is very very careful to get as much money as possible, but he is very reluctant to spend the money for the good of those who contribute it. I remember it was in 1111 that the Pambanar market was shifted from the old place to the new one. By auctioning the right to collect the tax from the markets for the last four years the Government got about Rs. 3000. I have the fortune or misfortune to visit this place very often and even last month I visited this particular market on my way to some other place. There is a history behind the choice of this particular site which I do not want to say here. The place chosen is a hilly tract removed from the main road. When this market was opened there was not the least convenience and the people were told "here is the place for the market and you carry on the business." They were made to believe that conveniences will be made, roads will be constructed, wells sunk, walls made and all that. But Sir, even in the last month it continues as it was before. There is no well there.

Mr. K. George: There is a well.

Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail: No, it is only a pit. I myself had occasion to take water from that pit last month. That is of no use and a good well is an absolute necessity. Without a road, it is impossible to carry on the market there. It may be under construction, but nothing is done. It takes four years for the construction of this market! Even this year Government got Rs. 400

[Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail]

as licence fees. If the convenience of the people, especially in market places, are not looked to, market going people will have to suffer a great deal. Therefore I invite the serious attention of the Land Revenue Commissioner to make it a pacca market.

A word about the revenue sales also. Whenever there is a revenue sale there will be an appeal and a revision complaining that there are irregularities in the sale of the land. These irregularities are due to the misconduct of subordinate officers who conduct the sales. After two or three years the purchaser and the defaulter are both put to great loss. It may be that it is only after three years that the irregularities are found out by the authorities and the person who has purchased the land in auction has to leave that property. True he may get five per cent., of what he has paid. It may be for small sums that one or half an acre of land is sold. If the Land Revenue Commissioner will exert some influence on his subordinates he can reduce these irregularities to a minimum.

About the income tax also, every body knows that there is much of evasion even now. At this time people know how to hide their true accounts. I request that the Government will pay more serious attention to find out these evasions, so that they can get more money from the rich.

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai (*Kottarakara and Pattanapuram cum Shencotta*): I also oppose the demand. My object in doing so is to impress upon the Government the necessity for the abolition of land-tax. The Dewan President in his speech before the joint session of the Assembly and the Council stated unequivocally that the ultimate aim of the Government is to abolish land-tax. He also said that if the people will willingly co-operate with the Government he will see that our revenue will be augmented by Rs. 20 lakhs every year. Our receipts from the Land Revenue Department is only about Rs. 41 lakhs. More than 10 lakhs we spend for the Revenue Department. The balance in land-tax is only Rs. 30 lakhs. If the wind fall promised by the Dewan comes true without difficulty we can abolish land-tax. The agricultural community consists of the bulk of the people of Travancore. I can boldly say that they are mostly willing to co-operate with the Government, provided the Government are willing to help them. If the Government will abolish the land-tax, I can assure that the agricultural section of the people of Travancore will heartily co-operate with the Government. They are not enamoured of any form of Government whether it be responsible Government or self-Government or Republic. (Mr. P. Balakrishnan Tamir, Shame.) They want good Government—a Government which is alive to their needs and requirements. They want such a Government.

Mr. R. V. Thomas (*Thodupuzha cum Minachil*): May I know whether the member would reject Responsible Government if it is granted by His Highness the Maharaja under his aegis?

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai: Sir, I have no attraction for any particular form of Government. My concern is that we want good Government, a Government which is sympathetic and considerate; let it be Responsible Government, Monarchy or Republic. I don't give any importance to the nomenclature. The agricultural community, I represent, does not care for mere names. It is only certain discontented politicians, who wish to conduct propaganda, that speak about the forms of Governments. The peasants want benevolent Government which would attend to their needs and requirements. If the Government are going to do that, I can assure them the hearty support of the agricultural community of the State.

One honourable member said that South Travancore people require remission of tax. One other honourable member wanted remission for Kuttanad. Sir, this is the common cry of the people of all parts of the State. Every year, honourable members of this house bring forward resolutions and cut motions to reduce the land-tax, and they were passed with great majority. Our Government were also pleased to grant occasional remission. Any how, a strong case is made out for abolition. The Government have conceded its urgency also. In view of these facts, I request the Government to abolish the land-tax in toto. If it is done there will be great contentment and peace in the State.

Sir, the condition of the agriculturists is very miserable. Their holdings have lost their economic importance on account of subdivisions and fragmentations. Economic depression hit them very hard. The price of articles has fallen considerably and it is impossible for them to meet the cost of cultivation. Under these circumstances it is only just and fair to consider the abolition of land-tax.

Another fact I have to impress upon the Government is this. Every civilised Government are trying to make their country self-supporting. Travancore should not be an exception. Our country should be made self-contained and self-sufficient. To achieve that, we must begin extensive cultivation.

Chairman: The House will now adjourn and meet again at 2 P. M.

The House adjourned for lunch at 1 P. M. and met again at 2 P. M. with the President in the chair.

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai : To make our country self-sufficient we must increase the production of paddy. We import large quantity of rice and paddy every year from outside. To avoid that we must start extensive cultivation of paddy here. Large tracts of land and swampy areas are lying idle in our forest regions. We must disafforest these lands and register them in favour of the people. So also large portions of the Vembanad and the Kayankulam lakes should be reclaimed and made available for cultivation. I should also impress upon the Government one other point in connection with market tolls. Market tolls should be abolished. It has become a curse to the poor agriculturists. The fees that we collect are comparatively small. We get only Rs. 98,000. It is only a small amount which we can forego without any difficulty. The misery of the people is appalling. So I join with my friends who advocate the immediate abolition of this obnoxious tax.

I would also draw the attention of Government to another matter. Sir, in some taluks the Tahsildars are asked to carry on the work of the Magistrates. The Tahsildar has to do multifarious duties. He is an overburdened and overworked officer. It is a great sin to ask him to carry on the work of the magistrates as well. He may not be able to cope with both duties. It is better to divest the Tahsildar of his magisterial duties and entrust it to Second Class Magistrates.

Mr. C. N. Thuppan Nambudiri (Travancore Jenmis): ഈ ധനാഭ്യർത്ഥനയിൽ ചില പ്രധാനസംഗതികളെക്കുറിച്ച് പ്രസ്താവിക്കണമെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നത്. ഇവിടത്തെ ജന്മിക്കരും സെററിൽമെൻറും അടുത്ത ഒരു കൊല്ലംകൊണ്ടു പൂർത്തിയാകുമെന്നു ലാൻഡ് റവന്യൂ കമ്മീഷണർ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. അദ്ദേഹം ജന്മിക്കരും സെററിൽമെൻറും സംബന്ധിച്ച നിഷ്കർഷമായ നടപടികൾ നടത്തുന്നുണ്ട് എന്നുള്ളതും എനിക്കു ബോദ്ധ്യമായിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ ഈ ഒരു കൊല്ലംകൊണ്ടു ഈ ജോലിതീർക്കണം എന്നു പറയുന്നതു അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ റൊഗ്രഹം മാത്രമെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നത്. ജന്മിക്കരും കുടിയാനവരും ഭോഷമില്ലാത്ത വിധത്തിൽ അവർ സൗഹാർദ്ദതയോടുകൂടി ഇരിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള വിചാരത്തോടുകൂടിയാണ് അദ്ദേഹം ഇങ്ങനെ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. അങ്ങനെ അദ്ദേഹം ആഗ്രഹിച്ചതിനു ഞാൻ നന്ദി പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ഈ ജന്മിക്കരും സെററിൽമെൻറും കമ്മീഷണർ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നതുപോലെ ഒന്നല്ല രണ്ടല്ല മൂന്നുകൊല്ലമായാലും ശരിയായി തീരുകയില്ല എന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ഞാൻ നിശ്ചയമായും ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ജന്മികുടിയാൻ റഗുലേഷൻ പാസാക്കിയ അവസരത്തിൽ അ

നിന്നു ലാഭമെന്തെന്ന് ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി പ്രസ്താവിച്ചപ്പോൾ ഇത് ശരിയായി നടക്കുകയില്ല കഴുപ്പത്തിലേ കലാശിക്കുകയുള്ളൂ എന്നു ഞാൻ എതിർത്തില്ല. പ്രായം പൂർത്തിയാക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. ആ സംഗതി ലാൻഡ് റവന്യൂ കമ്മീഷണർ ഇപ്പോൾ ഏറ്റെടുക്കുകയോ ചെയ്യുമായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ജന്മിക്കരം ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിന്റെ നിലയെപ്പറ്റിയാണ് ചില സംഗതികൾ എനിക്കു സൂചിപ്പിക്കുവാനുള്ളത്. ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു പറയുന്ന അവസരത്തിൽ ഇതിൽ ഇത്ര ഗൗരവമായി പറയാനൊന്നാണുള്ളതെന്നു തോന്നിയേക്കാം. ജന്മിക്കടിയാൻ ബില്ലിലേക്കു ഇത്ര പ്രാധാന്യമേറിയ ഒരു ബില്ലു വേറെ ഇല്ലെന്നുള്ളതു എല്ലാവർക്കും അറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. ജന്മിയും കുടിയായും തമ്മിൽ സെൽഫ്ഹാർട്ട് തോട്ടം ക്ഷേമത്തോടുകൂടി പെരുമാറണമെന്നുള്ള വിചാരത്തിലാണ് ആ നിയമത്തിൽ ഭേദഗതി വരുത്താൻ തുനിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളത്. അങ്ങനെ ആ നിയമം കൌൺസിൽ ഭൂരിപക്ഷത്തോടുകൂടി പാസാകുകയും ചെയ്തു. ആ നിയമത്തിന്റെ തത്വത്തിൽ ജന്മിമാർ ഏറ്റെടുക്കുക കീഴടങ്ങിയെന്നു കരുതുന്നു. അതു സംബന്ധിച്ചു ഗവണ്മെന്റിൽനിന്നും ഉണ്ടാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ള റൂൾസു അനുസരിച്ചാണ് ഇപ്പോൾ ജന്മിക്കരം നടപടികൾ നടത്തിവരുന്നത്. ജന്മിക്കരം ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റു ആദ്യമായി രൂപീകരിച്ചപ്പോൾ റവന്യൂ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റു ഫാറസ്റ്റ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റു എന്നിങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റുകളിൽ കണക്കുകളും മറ്റും എഴുതുന്നതിലേക്കു കൈയെടുത്തുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയുണ്ടായിരുന്നുവെങ്കിലും ഇപ്പോൾ ഇതിൽനിന്നും കൈയെടുത്തുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയുണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈ സംഗതിക്കു തെളിവുകൊടുക്കാൻ ഞാൻ തയ്യാറാണ്.

President : I do not wish to curtail the limits of debate. But the honourable member should remember that he has only 2 minutes more. So he will make his remarks as short as convenient.

Mr. C. N. Thuppan Nambudiri : ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റു സംബന്ധമായ നടപടികളിൽ ജന്മിമാരിൽനിന്നും ഇനിയും സ്റ്റേറ്റുമെന്റു കൾ കിട്ടുന്നുണ്ടെന്ന് ലാൻഡ് റവന്യൂ കമ്മീഷണർ പറയുന്നു. എന്നാൽ മൂന്നുപ്രാവശ്യം സ്റ്റേറ്റുമെന്റു കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള ആളാണ് ഞാൻ. സ്റ്റേറ്റുമെന്റു കൊടുക്കുന്നതിന് യാതൊരു രസീതും തരികയില്ല. സ്റ്റേറ്റുമെന്റു മേടിച്ചു ഫയലിൽ കെട്ടിയിടും. മൂന്നും നാലും പ്രാവശ്യം

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Mr. C. N. Thuppan Nambudiri.]

സ്റ്റേറ്റുമെൻറുകിട്ടാൻ നോട്ടീസ് അയക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇതിനുംപുറമെ തീർച്ചപ്പെടുത്തിയ കേസുകൾക്കു വീണ്ടും സ്റ്റേറ്റുമെൻറു കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു നോട്ടീസ് അയക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. സ്റ്റേറ്റുമെൻറു കൊടുക്കാതിരിക്കുന്ന അവസരത്തിൽ കരംപതിവിൽ പോകട്ടെ എന്നു പറഞ്ഞു അവിടെ അയക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങിനെയാണ് പൊതുവെയുള്ള അവിടത്തെ കഴപ്പം. ഇതിനുംപുറമെ കരംപതിവിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള നടപടികളെക്കുറിച്ച് ലാൻഡ് റവന്യൂ കമ്മീഷണർ വളരെ സാമത്യത്തോടുകൂടി അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ എടുത്തു കാണിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ കൊല്ലത്തിൽ ഇരുപതിനായിരത്തിൽപരം കരംപതിവു കേസുകൾ കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു പറയുന്നു. ഇതു കണ്ടുപിടിക്കുന്നതിനു ഒരു പ്രയാസവുമില്ല. ജന്മിമാർ കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള സ്റ്റേറ്റുമെൻറുകൾവെച്ചു തീർച്ചപ്പെടുത്താൻ മതി. ഈ സംഗതി ലാൻഡ് റവന്യൂ കമ്മീഷണർ സർകൂട്ടുവരുന്ന അവസരത്തിൽ ഞാൻ കാണിച്ചുകൊടുക്കാം. പറയുടെ കഴപ്പത്തെപ്പറ്റിയാണു അടുത്തതായി പറയാനുള്ളത്. മുൻപു അതിനെപ്പറ്റി പലപ്പോഴും പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. അറന്തററിനാൽപ്പതു കൂബിക്കു ഇഞ്ചു ആണു അഗ്രശാലപറ എന്നു ലാൻഡ് റവന്യൂ കമ്മീഷണർ പറയുന്നു. ഇവിടെനിന്നും ഇന്നു സ്ഥലത്തേക്കു എത്ര ദൂരമുണ്ടെന്നു ചോദിച്ചാൽ രണ്ടുനാഴികയുണ്ടെന്നു പറയും. രണ്ടുനാഴികയെന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ അഗ്രശാലപ്പറക്കാരെന്നും പറയും. അതു കൊണ്ടു അഗ്രശാലപ്പറ കൂടുതൽ എന്നാണു സാധാരണയായി ജനങ്ങൾ വിശ്വസിച്ചുവരുന്നതു. നൂറ് ൦ കൂബിക്കു ഇഞ്ചു മുൻപിരുന്ന ലാമെയുടെ കണക്കാണ്. അഗ്രശാല പറയെപ്പറ്റി തർക്കമുണ്ടായപ്പോൾ അന്നിരുന്ന വിദഗ്ദ്ധനായ ലാമെയർ കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചതാണു ഈ പറ. മതിൽക്കകത്തു ഉണ്ണാനുള്ള പറയാണിതു. അതുകൊണ്ടു അവിടെ അളക്കുന്ന പറ ഏതാണെന്നു നോക്കി കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചു. പഴയ അളവുകൾ പറനിറച്ചാണു അളക്കുന്നതു. ഈ പറയുടെ തലവട്ടിച്ചാണു അളക്കുന്നതു. ഈ പറ അഗ്രശാലപറയെന്നും നിശ്ചയിച്ചു. സ്റ്റാൻറാർഡു പറയും അഗ്രശാല പറയും ഒന്നാണെന്നു ൧൦൦൦ ഇടവും ൨൦-൦൦൦-യിലെ ഗസറ്റിൽ പറയുടെ തക്കം വരരുതെന്നു വിചാരിച്ചു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. മി. എൻ. വി. ചാക്കോ പറയെപ്പറ്റി പോലും ചോദിച്ചപ്പോൾ തൃപ്പൂണിത്തുറ പാട്ടപ്പറ എന്നു ഒരു പറയെപ്പറ്റി പറഞ്ഞു. അഗ്രശാല പറ, മുദപ്പറ, സ്റ്റാൻറാർഡു പറ ഈ മൂന്നു പറയും ഒന്നാണ്. ഇതി

ന്റെ വ്യത്യാസം നിമിത്തം ജന്മിമാർക്കുമാത്രമല്ല കുടിയാനും സങ്കടമുണ്ടു്. ജന്മികുടിയാൻ റെഗുലേഷൻ പാസായകാലത്തുതന്നെ ഇതിനെ ഞാൻ എതിർത്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ജന്മിമാർക്കു് സിവിൽ കോടതിയിൽ പോകാതെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ആ വിഷയത്തിൽ പ്രത്യേകമായി നിഷ്കർഷ ചെയ്യണം. വിലത്തരത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണു് പിന്നെ പറയാനുള്ളതു്. കമ്പോളനിരക്കു് ൧൪-൪, ൧൫-൦, ൧൬-൦ ചക്രമുണ്ടെന്നു കമ്മീഷണർ പറയുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ആദായനികുതിയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു വച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന നിരക്കു വേറെയാണു്. പെൻഷൻകാർക്കു് കൊടുക്കുന്ന നിരക്കും വേറെയാണു്.

Mr. K. George : ഞതിലേക്കു കമ്മ്യൂട്ടേഷൻ കമ്മറിയെ നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നറിയാമോ?

Mr. C. N. Thuppan Nambudiri : ആ കമ്മററി പാടില്ല ഏതു ഞാൻ പ്രതിഷേധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ൫൧ വർഷം ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കിട്ടിയട്ടുള്ള നിരക്കു ജന്മികൾക്കുമാത്രം പാടില്ല. അവർക്കു പ്രത്യേകം കമ്മററിവച്ചു പ്രത്യേകനിരക്കു ഉണ്ടാക്കണമെന്നു പറയുന്നതിന്റെ അർത്ഥം അവരെപ്പറ്റി എന്തുചെയ്യാലും ക്ഷോഭമുണ്ടാകയില്ലെന്നുള്ള സമാധാനമായിരിക്കാം.

Mr. K. George : Sir, a large number of subjects have been discussed here.

President : You have 8 minutes.

Mr. K. George : Sir, under this demand many subjects have been discussed. I do not think I shall have sufficient time to deal in detail with all of them ; but I shall attempt to deal with such of them as are important.

One general subject, that was discussed by several members was about tolls in markets. I think I had better speak of that at the very beginning. Tolls in markets were established under the Market Regulation and they have been in force for a very long time now. The principle which underlies the levy of tolls in markets was recognised by the legislature when the Market Regulation was passed by it. The principle evidently is this :—

The markets are local institutions and the improvement of the markets is a requirement which should be met not from general finance but from local revenues. Apparently, it is on that principle that market tolls are levied in British India also. Well, that being recognised, suppose market tolls are abolished, then all the expenditure that has to be incurred for the maintenance and improvement of markets, such as their upkeep, sanitation, the supply of drinking water, the provision of stalls, the construction of boundary walls,

[Mr. K. George.]

etc., all these will fall on the general revenues. It is no doubt true that we have not been spending a substantial amount for improving the markets in the past. It is due to various reasons which I need not detail now. I can only say that for the next year we have made a substantial provision of Rs. 25,000 for markets. We are proposing to take over and convert into public markets as many private markets as possible. At present, although we are not spending the entire sum we collect, we are maintaining the markets properly as far as the funds allotted permit. Now I shall consider the question of private markets. It was said by one member that more private markets should be allowed and that should be taken over by the Government after seeing that they are thriving. Government have no objection to allow private markets in places where it is useful to open them and where the opening of public markets will not be possible. At the same time, Government have to inform the House that their policy is as far as possible to convert private markets into public ones. That policy is being steadily kept in view. Now, as regards the irregularities in certain markets, it is true that in some markets much larger tolls are levied than is authorised. Complaints have been occasionally received from the public that the tolls levied are excessive and not authorised by the Market Regulation. Enquiries have been made in such cases, and, where it has been proved that the market contractors are levying exorbitant rates steps have been taken to put a stop to such practices. The honourable member Mr. R. Kesavan Nair is aware that I went in company with him to inspect a particular market and to see whether the contractor levied excessive rates. It was found that the complaints against the contractor were true and I took immediate steps to stop his exaction. Sir, last year I promised to consider the question of the abolition of tolls on handload. I have already made some proposals to Government in that matter and I expect Government will pass order shortly. Consistent with the policy that the Government have been adopting in this matter, it would not be practisable to abolish the tolls on other than hand loads.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvila : We are getting Rs. 95,000, why can't we do that?

Mr. K. George : We cannot sacrifice the revenue.....

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair : Why can't we dispense with this blood money as Mr. Kuruvila will have it.

Mr. K. George : It is not as easy as it looks at first sight. There are various questions to be considered in that connection. There is, for instance, the question of tolls in markets in municipal areas. We cannot interfere with the tolls levied there. These are a substantial source of revenue for the municipalities. Well, it is

not proper that tolls should be abolished in rural areas and allowed to continue in municipal areas. No such differential treatment ought to be made. Then the other thing that we have to consider is that on principle the levy of tolls in markets is proper, because markets are local institutions and the general funds should not be utilised in improving the conditions of markets in rural areas.

One other subject which I should refer is the question raised by the honourable member Mr. Arumukham Pillai, regarding the excess taxation in Nanjanad. Government have already admitted that the rate of taxation in Nanjanad is comparatively heavier than in other parts of the State. It has been decided, at any rate, for the time being, that the question of resettlement should be postponed; that being so, the Nanjanad ryots will be justified in asking that their long-standing grievances should be redressed. If resettlement is to be postponed, something should be done in the mean time to remedy their hardships. One or two methods of remedying their grievances suggest themselves to the Government. Some of the members from Nanjanad have made a suggestion that their hardships will be mitigated if the complaints, which they have all along been making regarding the conversion of *kotta* into *para*, is re-examined and the *kotta* is declared to be equivalent to 7 *paras* and 2 *edangalies* instead of the present rates of 9 *paras* and 5 *edangalies* adopted for part of half the tax and 8 *paras* and 6½ *edangalies* adopted in 1081 for the remaining half. That is possibly a way of remedying their grievance; but it is a matter requiring careful examination.

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai : Sir, I wish to know whether the Land Revenue Commissioner is going to decide the question on the basis of the statement made by any member or on the merits of the question.

Mr. K. George : Yes, Sir. I am speaking of the merits of the question. I am referring to the arguments put forward by the people of Nanjanad.

President : Including, I take, the honourable member who represents Nanjanad in this House.

Mr. K. George : Yes, Sir. The question is bristling with difficulties. At any rate, this question was considered by Government on previous occasions and they have decided that the grievance is imaginary. I am at the present moment examining that question and I hope to submit a report to Government about it very shortly. It is submitted that the Nanjanad ryots are paying a very high tax. Another solution which seems to be simpler is to see whether it is not possible to give to the ryots of Nanjanad a 10 or 12½ per cent reduction of all the *tharams* from the 1st to the 14th. I am dealing with the matter from both these points of view. The report will be made shortly.

[Mr. K. George.]

Sir, one member suggested that the Devicolam Division may be abolished and added on to Kottayam. It is a very attractive proposal. It is also a proposition which, if carried out, will cause some saving to Government. I may inform the House that the Government are looking into the matter carefully. It is impracticable to add the whole of the Division to Kottayam, because that would make it an unwieldy Division. Devicolam is about 100 miles from Kottayam and the outlying places of Devicolam cannot be easily reached from Kottayam. But, the Peermade taluk of the Devicolam Division could easily be added to the Kottayam Division. The whole of Kottayam, Quilon and Devicolam may be so redistributed as to give fairly equal jurisdiction to the Division Peishkars. That is a question which the Government are now considering. It is not possible to make any promise now.

The Nambudiri member was very anxious to discuss about the Jenmikaram Settlement. I hope we shall be able to finish the Jenmikaram Settlement within one year. The work is almost nearing completion. The number of cases left for disposal is few. Certain items of work remain to be done.

Mr. C. N. Thuppan Nambudiri: ജന്മിക്കരം സെററിൽ മെൻറിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച സ്റ്റേറ്റുമെൻറുകൊടുത്തത് തീർച്ചപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനായി ശരിയായ സ്റ്റേറ്റുമെൻറു ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്നതായി മെമ്പർമാർക്കറിയാമോ?

Mr. K. George : അങ്ങനെ ചിലതെല്ലാം കാണാം. Sir, shall I speak a few words in Malayalam, so that the member may understand.

President. Oh, yes.

Mr. K. George. ഇപ്പോൾ ജന്മിക്കരം മിക്കവാറും എല്ലാം തീർന്നിരിക്കുകയാണ്. ഇനിയും കുറെ ജോലികൾ മാത്രമേ തീരാനുള്ളൂ. അതെല്ലാംകൂടി ഒരാണ്ടിനകം തീരുമെന്നാണ് വിചാരിക്കുന്നത്. ഈ ആണ്ടിൽതന്നെ അൻപതു പകുതിക്കുള്ളിലെ സെററിൽമെൻറു രജിസ്റ്റർ എഴുതിത്തീരും. ചില ജോലികൾ തീരാനുണ്ടെന്നു ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞതിൽ ഒന്ന് ചില കുടിയാന്മാരുടെ പേർ പഴയ തണ്ടപ്പർ പ്രകാരമല്ലാ കാണുന്നത് എന്നുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടു അതിനെ തിരുത്തണമെന്നുള്ളതാണ്. അതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു പേരു മാറ്റാനുള്ള നടപടി ഉൾക്കൊള്ളിതായി നടത്തിവരുന്നുണ്ട്. പിന്നെ ഒന്ന്, മുമ്പായിരമോ നാലായിരമോ കേസുകൾ കിടക്കുന്നു എന്നുള്ളതാണ്. അതിലേക്കും പ്രത്യേകം ഓഫീസുകൾ തീക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ട ഏർപ്പാടുകൾ ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്.

Mr. C. N. Thuppan Nambudiri : സ്റ്റേറ്റ്‌മെന്റുകൊടുത്തിട്ടില്ലാത്തതു മുഴുവൻ കരം പതിപ്പു നടപടി നടത്തിക്കൊടുക്കുകയാണോ ചെയ്യുന്നത്?

Mr. K. George : അങ്ങനെയാണു ചെയ്തു കൊണ്ടിരുന്നത്. എന്നാൽ കരം പതിപ്പു നടപടി നടക്കുന്ന സമയത്തു കൂടിയാണോ ജന്മിയോ സ്റ്റേറ്റ്‌മെന്റുകൊടുത്തു തെളിവു ഹാജരാക്കുന്നപക്ഷം ആ നടപടിയെ റദ്ദുചെയ്കയാണു പതിവ്. അങ്ങനെയുള്ള കേസുകൾ വളരെ ചുരുക്കമാണു്.

Mr. C. N. Thuppan Nambudiri : ഇപ്പോൾ ജന്മിമാരുടെ സ്റ്റേറ്റ്‌മെന്റുകൾ വന്നിട്ടുള്ളതു ആകെയുള്ളതിൽ പകുതിയോളമെ വരികയുള്ളു എന്നറിയാമോ?

Mr. K. George : അതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു നല്ല നിശ്ചയമില്ല. ഇപ്പോൾ വന്ന സ്റ്റേറ്റ്‌മെന്റുകൾ മിക്കവാറും തീർന്നിട്ടുണ്ടു്. വരുന്നയാണ്ടോടുകൂടി, എല്ലാ പകുതികളിലേയും ജന്മിക്കരം സെറ്റിൽമെന്റ് രജിസ്റ്റർ എഴുതിത്തീർക്കാമെന്നാണു് നവംബർ ആശിക്കുന്നത്. കരം പതിപ്പിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു ഉൾജ്ജിതമായ നടപടി നടത്തിവരുന്നുണ്ടു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു വലിയ വിഷമങ്ങളുണ്ടാകുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് ഇത്രമാത്രമെ പറയുന്നുള്ളു.

Sir, one other important subject which was discussed is the need for more consideration in the issue of coercive processes. It is true that, during the last 3 or 4 years, there has been an increase in the number of coercive processes issued. Probably, that is partly due to the deterioration in the ability of the people to pay the tax. But I may point out that, although the number of demand notices was high, the number of sales was comparatively small, and the number of sales ultimately confirmed was still smaller. Sir, a very large number of cases come up to me for revision, and I always make it a point, as far as possible, to help the people without causing undue hardship to the purchasers. The large number of actual revenue sales need not cause any uneasiness or alarm in the minds of the members.

One honourable member stated that there were irregularities in the issue of coercive processes. A few irregularities are inevitable when such a large number of sales have to be conducted. But whenever such irregularities are brought to my notice, I have always tried to remedy them.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: May I know the total amount of tax remitted as a result of the Dewan's announcement?

Mr. K. George: That is under calculation, and an accurate figure it is not possible to give.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: May I know the approximate amount?

Mr. K. George: It will be about a lakh or a lakh and a half.

The Demand was then put to vote and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND II—MEDICAL.

Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai: Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 9,57,910, under Demand II—Medical Department.

Mr. K. M. Korah (*Vaikam, Kottayam and Changanacherry cum Peermade*): Sir, I rise to oppose the demand to draw the attention of the Government to the need for starting floating dispensaries in Kuttanad. Sir, in Kuttanad, the harvest begins in the middle of Kumbham and goes on till the middle of Medam. During this period, the labourers from different parts of the country come to Kuttanad and live in temporary huts built on the bunds themselves. There is scarcity of water, and the water available is bad. The whole atmosphere is unhealthy. Very often these labourers get contagious diseases like cholera. When such diseases break out, the agriculturists are put to very great difficulty in procuring medical aid. I therefore request the Government that floating dispensaries may be established at least during the period between the middle of Kumbham and the middle of Medam.

My next point is the urgent need for a dispensary at Manimala. This is a matter which has been agitated upon by the representatives of the people for the last many years. Now the people of Manimala have to go either to Kanjirapally or to Changanachery for their medical needs. They are put to very great inconvenience. I therefore request that a dispensary may be started at Manimala at an early date.

Then, Sir, there is no dispensary in any of the Kuttanad villages belonging to the Changanacherry taluk. If it is not possible for the Government to start rural dispensaries in these Kuttanad pakuthies of the Changanachery taluk, they should at least give grants to qualified doctors who come forward prepared to give rural medical aid for these people.

With these observations, I oppose the demand.